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AN

ADDRESS

TO THE

GOVERNORS

OF

ADDENBROOKE's HOSPITAL.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE

GOVERNORS

OF

ADDENBROOKE's HOSPITAL.

Dec. 12, 1784.

GENTLEMEN,

THAT ſome Proceedings of the Weekly Meeting at Addenbrooke's Hoſpital, on the 8th of Nov. laſt (to which Objections have been made) may be more perfectly underſtood by ſuch Governors as did not attend at the ſubſequent Weekly Meeting, on Monday the 15th, I think it proper to ſtate that Matter in a true and clear Light.

As ſoon as the Board was met, the Death of Mr. Griffies, late Surgeon to the Hoſpital, was notified in Form: and at the ſame Time a Meſſage was delivered to the Board from the three other Surgeons, purporting, that

they

they could, and would very willingly, take Care of all the Patients of the Hoſpital, without the Aſſiſtance of any other Surgeon, if the Governors approved of it: — the Surgeons were then deſired to come in, and take their Places; and after ſome Queſtions being aſked them with Reſpect to their Propoſal, the following Minute was ordered to be entered, as expreſſive of the Opinion of all the Governors then preſent, with Regard to the ſaid Propoſal.

"Whereas the Death of Mr. Griffies, one of the Surgeons of this Hoſpital, was this Day made known to the Board, and the three other Surgeons of the Hoſpital, being preſent, have generouſly offered to continue their Attendance on the Patients, without the Aſſiſtance of any other Surgeon: — it is the unanimous Opinion of this Board, that their kind Offer be accepted, and that the Appointment of another Surgeon is unneceſſary: — the Board accordingly thanks them."

This Proceeding, as it ſeems, occaſioned a Report to be ſpread that the Weekly Meeting were acting arbitrarily, and determining a Matter which they had no Right to do, by the Rules of the Hoſpital. This brought a conſiderable Number of reſpectable Governors to attend at the ſubſequent Weekly Meeting; in Order, as it ſhould ſeem, to oppoſe any ſuch Meaſure, if they found the Alarm given to be well grounded. But after the above

above Minute had been read, and the whole Affair explained to them, they ſeemed to be ſatisfied that nothing irregular had been done, nor indeed could have been done with Reſpect to any Determination as to the electing of another Surgeon; for this very Minute objected to, might have been annihilated at this ſubſequent Meeting; nor could it poſſibly have been of any Force, till approved of by the next General Court: — ſo that nothing was done at this Meeting, but an Order made to refer the above Minute to the next General Court; — which muſt have been done of Courſe, though this Order had not been made.

As the Governors who ordered this Minute to be entered, were thus called upon (rather prematurely) to give an Account of their Conduct, I hope I may be allowed, as one of them, to make my Defence more publick; and at the ſame Time to give my Reaſons for ſupporting the preſent Surgeons of the Hoſpital, in (what I think) their juſt and reaſonable Expectations.

Firſt I aſſert, that *three Surgeons are ſufficient for the requiſite Attendance on all the Patients of the Hoſpital:* — which Aſſertion I ſupport, by the Experience of our own, and the Practice of other County Hoſpitals.

From the firſt Opening of our Hoſpital, Oct. 13, 1766, to May the 8th, 1775, there were never more than three Surgeons, viz. Mr. Hayles, Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. Thacke-

ray, nor was there the leaſt Murmur or Complaint (as I ever heard) that a ſingle Patient was neglected during that Time, or that three Surgeons were on any Account inſufficient for the Buſineſs of the Hoſpital.

On the 8th of May, 1775, Mr. Hayles, on Account of his ill State of Health, reſigned: but being deſirous ſtill of doing what Service he could to the Hoſpital, he offered to attend upon any extraordinary Occaſion: which Offer, the Governors, who had a high Opinion of his Judgment, thankfully accepted; and he was entered in their Books as *Conſulting Surgeon*, and continued ſo till his Death in April, 1781.

From the Time of Mr. Hayles' Reſignation on May the 8th, 1775, to July, 1776, there were only two *acting* Surgeons, viz. Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Thackeray; but Mr. Hopkins growing then very infirm, ſo that the Buſineſs lay too heavy upon Mr. Thackeray alone, it was thought neceſſary to elect another Surgeon: — and upon farther Conſideration of the Nature of Mr. Hopkins' Illneſs, which was an abſolute Decay, from which there was not the leaſt Proſpect of his Recovery, it was thought more adviſeable (to prevent the Conteſt there would have been between Mr. Bond and Mr. Okes) to elect them both at that Time, rather than wait for an Event which was likely to take Place very ſoon, (and did take Place early in the Year 1777) and then have the Trou-

ble

ble of another Election. Accordingly a ſpecial General Court was held for that Purpoſe, July 22, 1776, when Mr. Bond and Mr. Okes were elected without Oppoſition. In this Caſe therefore the Governors were deſirous of promoting Peace and Unanimity, at the ſame Time conſulting Propriety. So that although there were four nominal Surgeons on our Books from the 22d of July, 1776, to the Beginning of the Year 1777, (when Mr. Hopkins died) yet there were only three Surgeons in Effect during that Time; Mr. Hopkins being ſo infirm as to be incapable of Buſineſs almoſt from the Time of Mr. Bond's and Mr. Okes' Election; as is well known to thoſe Governors who attended the Weekly Meetings at that Time. And thus the Buſineſs of the Hoſpital continued to be carried on by three Surgeons only to Mich. 1780.

At a Weekly Meeting on the 28th of Aug. 1780, Mr. Griffies offered his Service as a Surgeon to the Hoſpital; which Offer was of Courſe referred to the next General Quarterly Court, which was to be held on the 2d of Oct. following. Accordingly at that Court Mr. Thackeray moved "that Mr. Griffies be "elected a fourth Surgeon to the Hoſpital." Several of the Governors preſent objected to the Motion, as there did not appear to them the leaſt Neceſſity for another Surgeon; — but as Mr. Thackeray was ſo juſtly re-

ſpected

ſpected for his long and able Services, and as Mr. Griffies was his Nephew, and had been his Apprentice (and therefore was in ſome Degree connected with this Place) and eſpecially as the two other Surgeons did at laſt acquieſce in it, the Motion was ſeconded, and Mr. Griffies was elected without a Diviſion. At the ſame Court, immediately after Mr. Griffies' Election, an Order was moved, and agreed to unanimouſly, "that "the Number of Surgeons of the Hoſpital at one Time "ſhould never exceed four": — but this Order was not made upon a Suppoſition that four were neceſſary, but to prevent any farther Applications of a ſimilar Nature with that of Mr. Thackeray's; for ſome of the Governors who agreed to that Order, had before objected to Mr. Griffies' Election, intirely upon this Principle, — "*that a fourth Surgeon was unneceſſary.*" — From this Time to Mr. Griffies' Death, Nov. 6, 1784 there were four Surgeons in the Hoſpital; though for ſeveral Months preceding his Death, Mr. Griffies was in too weak a State to attend his Patients, who were taken Care of by the other Surgeons.

It has been urged as a Proof of the Neceſſity of having a fourth Surgeon to attend the Hoſpital, — that the Number of Patients have increaſed ſo of late, that we have been obliged to put ſome of them into the Garrets: — the Caſe is this: — A Room in the upper

upper Part of the Houſe has been furniſhed lately with four Beds to ſerve as an additional Ward upon Occaſion, which was done, not becauſe the other Wards were become inſufficient, but to relieve the Men's Wards, if too much crowded in hot Weather, and for the Reception of Patients upon any extraordinary epidemical Sickneſs*. — Three of the four original Wards generally hold all the Patients; two, the Men, and one, the Women: theſe have eleven Beds each, for Patients; and the Number of Patients in the Hoſpital at a Time is about 30 upon an Average; of theſe about 12 are medical and 18 ſurgical Caſes; the greater Part of the medical, being Out-Patients. The average Number of In-Patients† from the firſt opening of the Hoſpital to Michaelmas laſt, being 18 Years was 272.

It being pretty clear, I think, from the above Detail, that three Surgeons are ſufficient for the Buſineſs of our Hoſpital, as far as our own Experience has reached; let us next examine into the Practice of other County Hoſpi-

* This was particularly the Caſe in the Summer of 1783, which was uncommonly hot and ſickly: the Sickneſs chiefly affected the labouring People; and being of an obſtinate Kind, continued through the following Winter, and a great Part of the Spring: this brought a greater Number of Patients to the Hoſpital than ever was known before, but they were moſtly medical Caſes. This was the Occaſion of furniſhing an additional Ward.

† The Surgeons are very ſeldom concerned with any of the Out-Patients.

Hoſpitals in this Reſpect, from the ſeveral States of them which have been tranſmitted to us.

All thoſe I have examined carefully; and am ſatisfied that I have made no material Miſtake in the following Statement; — I am ſure I have made no wilful one.

Hoſpitals	No. of Years	No. of Surgeons in each Year	Average No. of In-Patients
Briſtol	7	5 Ordinary 1 Extraordinary	1403
Cheſter	1	4	710
Devon	2	4	1071
Kingſton	[a] 1	3	117
Leeds	1	3	481
Leiceſter	3	3	369
Lincoln	3	2	200
Manchеſter	8	3	527
Norfolk and Norwich	5	3 Surgeons 3 Aſſiſting do	333
Northampton	11	1 Surgeon 1 Conſulting do	408
Nottingham	[b] 2	3	209
Radcliffe	5	4	576
Salop	10	3	605
Saliſbury	[c] 1	2	43

It

[a] The firſt Year of opening.
[b] It appears to have been opened but 2 Years.
[c] The firſt Year of opening.

It appears from the above Statement that ten at leaſt, out of thoſe fourteen Hoſpitals have had a larger Proportion of Patients to their Number of Surgeons than we have had to this Time; and that in ſome of them the Diſproportion is very conſiderable: — all the reſt too (except Norwich) being in their Infancy, may be expected to increaſe for ſome Years in their Number of Patients. — Another Obſervation alſo occurred in examining the Accounts of thoſe Hoſpitals, which is much to our preſent Purpoſe, viz. that all of them which have been eſtabliſhed for any Length of Time have kept to their original Number of Surgeons: the Governors thereof ſeeming at firſt to have conſidered what Number of Patients their Hoſpitals were calculated to contain, and then to have appointed a proper Number of Surgeons for them; to prevent the Inconvenience of adding to, or diminiſhing them, upon an Increaſe or Decreaſe of Patients. And the ſame Conſideration, it is to be preſumed, operated upon the Governors of Addenbrooke's Hoſpital upon the firſt Eſtabliſhment of it, as three Surgeons were certainly more than were neceſſary for the firſt three or four Years *. — Theſe Facts, I hope, united with our own Experience,

* If this Obſervation is juſt, the Impropriety of electing a fourth Surgeon into the Hoſpital four Years ago, muſt appear in a ſtronger Light;

Experience, will ſufficiently eſtabliſh my firſt Poſition, that *three Surgeons are ſufficient for the requiſite Attendance on the Patients of our Hoſpital.*

My ſecond Aſſertion is, that *there is no Occaſion for any other Surgeon with reſpect to profeſſional Skill and Ability:* — the Proof of which I enter upon with equal Confidence.

Many very capital Operations have been performed in our Hoſpital, which required the niceſt Hand, and the moſt exact anatomical Knowledge; ſuch as Cutting for the Stone, and internal Abſceſſes; — Couchings, — Amputations, — Trepannings, &c.; in all which they have been generally ſucceſsful: and it appears upon Calculation, that as many Cures have been performed in our Hoſpital, in Proportion to the Number of Patients, as in any other County Hoſpital whoſe Accounts

and therefore ſurely that Meaſure ought not to be brought as a Precedent for committing the ſame Impropriety again: eſpecially as I think I may maintain that the Buſineſs of the Hoſpital will be better performed by three experienced Surgeons alone, than by an Addition of Surgeons of leſs Experience: — Patients are received at the Hoſpital by the Surgeons in Weekly Rotation; and they continue under the Care of that Surgeon, by whom they were received, as long as they ſtay in the Houſe; and it is not thought proper for any other Surgeon to inquire after them, unleſs at the Requeſt of him to whom they belong: — if then we increaſe the Number of Surgeons, we leſſen the Buſineſs of each: conſequently the moſt experienced will be leſs employed than before; — and will this be for the Benefit of the Hoſpital?

Accounts have been tranſmitted to us. — But I need not dwell any longer on this part of the Argument, as any Governor may ſatisfy himſelf by inſpecting our Books, what Number of Patients have been admitted in each Year; — what their Diſeaſes were, — how many were cured, and how many died. Theſe are publick and general Reaſons againſt increaſing the Number of the Surgeons of our Hoſpital: but there are alſo private and particular ones againſt voting for the Election of a fourth Surgeon at the next General Court, which I beg leave to mention, as I ſhould think they muſt operate as ſtrongly upon many other Governors, as they do upon my own Mind.

There are many Perſons now living who remember when there were but two Surgeons in this Place, but even *they* could never arrive at any Degree of Affluence: and though the Fees, and the Practice in ſome Branches of it, may be conſiderably increaſed of late Years, yet I think it muſt be allowed, that the Expences of Life have increaſed in at leaſt an equal Proportion: — but whatever the aggregate Profits of Surgery might have been before the Eſtabliſhment of our Hoſpital, they are inconteſtably much diminiſhed ſince; as moſt of the ſick and lame Poor of this, — and ſome, of the Neighbouring Counties, are now (Thanks to this benevolent Inſtitution!) taken Care of and cured gratis!

And yet our preſent Surgeons have contentedly received their Shares of theſe diminiſhed Profits; and have beſides, through a long Courſe of Years, given the ſame diligent and unremitted Attention (I ſpeak in a great Meaſure from Knowledge) to the poor Objects who are brought to our Hoſpital, as if every Operation they performed, and every Wound they healed, was to be attended with a Fee. Let me add to this, that it is the Opinion of an eminent Phyſician now living, who practiſed here many Years, and was well acquainted with the profeſſional Buſineſs of the Place, "that two "Surgeons confining themſelves to their Profeſſion "might do all the Buſineſs here very well, but that it "would afford but a ſcanty Proviſion for three."

The Friends of any particular Gentleman may have ſufficient Reaſons for wiſhing to introduce him into a Surgeon's Place in our Hoſpital: — but ſhall *we*, who are not ſo connected, deſert our *own* Surgeons upon ſo important an Occaſion, and pay no Regard to their Deſires and Remonſtrances, eſpecially when ſupported by a ſolemn Declaration from the Phyſicians too? * — *We*, who have ſo often experienced their Abilities in our own Families, both on melancholly and joyful Occaſions? — *We*, to whom they are united by a *Conjunctio Sortis*, for they have been educated amongſt us, have

* V. at the End of this Addreſs.

have been long ſettled, and have large Families here? — *We*, whom they have aſſiſted in our Diſtreſſes, by Night and Day, in all Seaſons, and at all Hours? — I ſay, ſhall *we* be inſtrumental in leſſening that moderate Revenue, of which they now ſeverally participate? — for we may be aſſured that it is not the unprofitable Buſineſs of our Hoſpital which is ſo anxiouſly ſolicited, but the profitable Emoluments of the Surgery Buſineſs of this Place, to which an Admiſſion there would be a ſtepping Stone: — Of this I think there can be little doubt.

The reſpectable Perſons whom I am now addreſſing, are too liberal for me to ſuppoſe that they can entertain a Thought, that, when a Phyſician or Surgeon has attended upon themſelves, their Wives, Children, or Relations, through a long and dangerous Illneſs, and the Fee is paid, — the Obligation is cancelled; — by no Means; — that kind and tender Intercourſe creates a friendly Affection on our Parts, with a reciprocal Inclination, and indeed Obligation, to conſult their Welfare and Intereſt on all proper Occaſions; eſpecially their profeſſional Intereſt, which is ſo eſſential to the Support and Comfort of themſelves and their Families; and by which we ourſelves have been ſo often benefited.

I beg leave therefore, in the moſt ſerious Manner, to intreat

intreat all Governors who ſtand in the above Predicament, to conſider this Matter well, before they give their Voice for electing another Surgeon into the Hoſpital at the next General Court; or they may do an Injury to ſeveral deſerving Men, of which they may not be aware: for I take upon me to ſay, that we are bound by many Ties, which ought to bind Men in ſuch a local Society, — not to encourage any other Surgeon to come and ſettle here (which we ſhall effectually do by giving him the Sanction of an Admiſſion into our Hoſpital) till there is a manifeſt want of one: (which is by no means the Caſe at preſent) or at leaſt while our preſent Surgeons continue, in Character, irreproachable; and in Skill, unimpeached.

It is generally conſidered, that publick Hoſpitals are intended for the Advancement of Science, as well as for the Relief of the Sick; and ſo they are; and this Intention is abundantly anſwered by the Inſtructions given to Pupils, and Apprentices; and by the Information and Dexterity which the Faculty themſelves acquire by Experience and frequent Operations. — But ſome Gentlemen are for extending this Advantage farther, even to the Caſe now depending before the Governors of our Hoſpital, and refer us to Biſhop Warren's Sermon on one of our Anniverſaries in Support of their Opinion:

but

— but let the Sermon ſpeak for itſelf: — " The ſmall Proviſion which was made for the advantageous Study of Phyſick in this Univerſity, was for many Years a great Diſgrace and Reproach to her: — but this Reproach is at length removed, as *our Students* in Phyſick have now an Opportunity of improving themſelves in Botany, Chemiſtry, and Anatomy; and which is much more uſeful, can add to Theory, an extenſive practical Knowledge, by means of this publick Infirmary." Does not the Biſhop plainly mean only by this Paſſage, that the phyſical Students of the Univerſity, would now have the Advantage of a practical School of Inſtruction in the Way of *Pupils?* — Could he poſſibly mean to include in the Words, *our Students*, any *Stranger already in Practice*, who might be invited to come and ſettle here, with a View to be appointed a *Surgeon* to our Hoſpital? — I am ſatisfied the worthy Prelate would have blotted out the whole Paragraph (however juſt and proper it was as it ſtood in his Sermon) could he have thought that ſuch an Interpretation would have been put upon his Words: — could he have thought that the leaſt Occaſion would from thence have been taken to deprive a Set of deſerving Men, of any of that Buſineſs, and of thoſe Emoluments, which, from their Connections in this Place, from the Situation of their Families, from their long

long publick Service, and from their profeſſional Skill, they have ſo juſt a Title to. But the Day is approaching when this Conteſt will be determined: — I hope Gentlemen will then meet, with Temper; and allow others to think and act differently from themſelves without being offended; eſpecially when they can give a fair Reaſon for their Opinion and Conduct: — we may then flatter ourſelves, that, whatever the Determination of that Day may be, the good Work in which we are all engaged, will in no wiſe ſuffer from it.—

A GOVERNOR.

Note, The next General Court will be held on Monday the 27th Inſt.

To

To the Governors of Addenbrooke's Hoſpital;

Gentlemen,

We, the Phyſicians and Surgeons of the Hoſpital, take the Liberty of repreſenting to you, that great Inconveniences and Diſagreements have ariſen in the Management of the Buſineſs of the Houſe, ſince the Appointment of a fourth Surgeon, and we firmly believe will always be likely to ariſe. — We therefore deſire that a fourth Surgeon may not again be appointed, but that the Buſineſs may now be conducted by three Surgeons as originally eſtabliſhed. This the preſent Surgeons have willingly undertaken, and we are fully perſuaded, that it will tend very much to the Advantage of the Hoſpital, and to the Comfort and Satisfaction of all Perſons concerned.

Cha. Collignon
I. Pennington } Phyſicians.

Tho. Thackeray
Tho. Bond
Tho. V. Okes } Surgeon

Preſented to the Board on Monday, Nov. 15, 1784.